

## DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

### JOINT INVENTORS

We, (1) Yorimichi DAIROKU, (2) Yoshio IRIE, (3) Shinichi FUJINO, (4) Yasuhiro FUJITA, (5) Takashi AZUMI and (6) Kunihiko ISHIZAKI declare that we are citizens/subjects of JAPAN, residing at (1) Himeji-shi, HYOGO JAPAN, (2) Himeji-shi, HYOGO JAPAN, (3) Himeji-shi, HYOGO JAPAN, (4) Himeji-shi, HYOGO JAPAN, (5) Himeji-shi, HYOGO JAPAN and (6) Suita-shi, OSAKA JAPAN and we have read the foregoing specification and claims and we verily believe that we are the original, first, and joint inventors of the invention entitled WATER-ABORBENT RESIN, HYDROPOLYMER, PROCESS FOR PRODUCING THEM, AND USES OF THEM described and claimed therein; that we have reviewed and understand the content of the attached specification, including the claims; that we acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which we are aware which is material to patentability of this application as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 and that no application for patent or inventor's certificate on this invention has been filed by us or our representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States, except as follows:

Japanese Application No. 2000-235995, filed August 3, 2000

Japanese Application No. 2000-348632, filed November 15, 2000

And we hereby appoint:

David S. Abrams	Reg. No. 22,576
Robert H. Berdo	Reg. No. 19,415
Alfred N. Goodman	Reg. No. 26,458
Mark S. Bicks	Reg. No. 28,770
John E. Holmes	Reg. No. 29,392
Garrett V. Davis	Reg. No. 32,023
Stacey J. Longanecker	Reg. No. 33,952
Thomas P. Hilliard	Reg. No. 40,330
Joseph J. Buczynski	Reg. No. 35,084
Robert S. Green	Reg. No. 41,800
Wayne C. Jaeschke, Jr.	Reg. No. 38,503
Lance G. Johnson	Reg. No. 32,531

AND WE HEREBY covenant that we have the full right to convey the entire right, title and interest herein assigned and that we have not executed and will not execute any assignment or other instrument in conflict herewith;

AND WE HEREBY further covenant and agree to communicate to said ASSIGNEE, or its legal representatives, successors or assigns, any facts relating to said invention, including evidence for interference purposes or other proceedings, whenever requested, and to testify in any interference or in any other legal proceeding, when requested, and to execute and deliver on request all lawful papers required to make any of the foregoing provisions effective; and to perform the aforesaid communicating, executing and delivering, without any payment except expenses and to perform the aforesaid testifying for reasonable compensation; and generally to do everything possible to aid the said ASSIGNEE, its successors, legal representatives or assigns to obtain and enforce proper patent protection on and for said invention in all countries, and likewise we make these provisions binding upon our heirs, legal representatives and/or administrators.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunder set our hand and seal.

09917642-073101

July 12, 2001	大六 頼道
Date	Name: Yorimichi DAIROKU
July 12, 2001	江 好夫
Date	Name: Yoshio IRIE
July 12, 2001	藤野 真一
Date	Name: Shinichi FUJINO
July 12, 2001	藤田 康弘
Date	Name: Yasuhiro FUJITA
July 12, 2001	安積 隆
Date	Name: Takashi AZUMI
July 12, 2001	石崎 邦彦
Date	Name: Kunihiro ISHIZAKI